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OF COUNSEL B. B. GULLETT 1905-1992

September 6, 2001

#### VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. David Waddell **Executive Secretary** Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37201

In Re:

Joint Petition of TEC Companies and the Consumer Advocate Division for the Approval and Implementation of Earnings Review Settlement Docket No. 99-00995

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Enclosed for filing are the original and thirteen copies of the Petition for Reconsideration of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. Also, attached to the Petition are AT&T's First Set of Discovery Requests to Crockett Telephone Company, Inc., People's Telephone Company and West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc., which have not been answered and which are referenced in the Petition.

Copies are being served on counsel of record.

Yours very truly

W. Robinson, Jr.

JWR/ghc **Enclosures** 

#### GULLETT, SANFORD, ROBINSON & MARTIN, PLLC

David Waddell September 6, 2001 Page 2

cc: Timothy C. Phillips, Esq.
T. G. Pappas and R. Dale Grimes, Esq.
Gene Coker, Esq.
Garry Sharp

## BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

JOINT PETITION OF CROCKETT TELEPHONE	)	
COMPANY, INC., PEOPLES TELEPHONE COMPANY,	Ó	
WEST TENNESSEE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.,	)	DOCKET NO. 99-00995
AND THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE DIVISION OF	Ć	
THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	í	
FOR THE APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION	ĺ	
OF EARNINGS REVIEW SETTLEMENT	Ć	

#### PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Pursuant to ordering paragraph five (5) of the Pre-Hearing Order dated August 24, 2001 in the above-captioned matter and the applicable rules of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA), AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. (AT&T) files this Petition for Reconsideration requesting the Pre-Hearing Officer to require Crockett Telephone Company, Inc., Peoples Telephone Company and West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc. (collectively "the TEC Companies") to respond to discovery requests previously filed by AT&T¹ and to require the TEC Companies to file their responses before the date established for the filing of direct testimony. In view of the time it will take to prepare and analyze the responses to the discovery requests, the Pre-Hearing should also reconsider the procedural schedule set forth in the August 24, 2001 Order. In support of its motion, AT&T shows the following:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For the convenience of the Pre-Hearing Officer, a copy of the discovery requests filed by AT&T on March 23, 2000 has been attached to this Petition.

1. At page eight (8) of the August 24, 2001 Order in this Docket the Pre-Hearing Officer concludes that:

At this stage of the proceeding, the following matters remain for consideration:

- 1. The Consumer Advocate's Motion for Summary Judgment seeking to dismiss AT&T from the docket;
- 2. The Memorandum of Understanding between the TEC Companies and AT&T ...; and
- 3. The Joint Petition of the TEC Companies and the Consumer Advocate seeking approval of the Settlement Agreement.

After denying the Consumer Advocate's Motion for Summary Judgment and declining to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, the Order declares that this matter shall proceed to resolve the following two issues:

- (a) Whether the amount of overearnings identified in the Settlement Agreement for the TEC Companies for the years 1999-2000 is correct; and
- (b) How and to what extent the rate design described in the Settlement Agreement should be amended to adjust for the overarnings identified therein.

In concluding that there were only three issues that remained for consideration by the TRA, the Pre-Hearing Officer overlooked the outstanding discovery request of AT&T.

2. On March 23, 2000 AT&T served the TEC Companies with discovery requests. On April 12, 2000, counsel for the TEC Companies filed a letter with the TRA expressing AT&T's willingness to postpone the TEC Companies' "obligation to respond to these discovery requests until a procedural schedule has been set...so long as the prehearing conference to establish such a schedule is not set too far into the future." A Status Conference was held on June 9, 200, but no determinations were made regarding

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See letter from R. dale Grimes to J. Richard Collier, Esq., April 12, 2000 and confirming letter from AT&T counsel, Val Sanford, filed April 13, 2000.

the outstanding discovery requests.<sup>3</sup> At another Status Conference held on December 14, 2000 counsel for AT&T requested that discovery be resumed<sup>4</sup>, but no apparent action was taken on that request.

- 3. On May 8, 2001 the TEC Companies and AT&T filed a Memorandum of Understanding that, if approved, would have resolved AT&T's immediate rate design concerns and resulted in AT&T withdrawing from this docket. Part of that Memorandum of Understanding provided that AT&T seek and agree to the entry of an order "staying or holding in abeyance pending approval of [access rate reduction] tariffs, all discovery requests it filed in TRA Docket No. 99-00995." The TEC Companies have not yet answered, filed objections to, or otherwise responded to AT&T's discovery requests. Inasmuch as the Order of August 24, 2001 denied approval of the Memorandum of Understanding, the outstanding discovery requests remain a live and important issue.
- 4. The information AT&T seeks through its discovery requests goes to the heart of the issues that the Pre-Hearing Officer seeks to resolve (See paragraph 1 above). In order for AT&T to reasonably respond to the substantive issues set out in the August 24, 2001 Order, the TEC Companies must respond to outstanding discovery requests submitted by AT&T on March 23, 2000. Without such information that is relevant to the determination of the issues of this docket, AT&T's position will be prejudiced and it will be denied an opportunity for a fair hearing.
- 5. If there is insufficient time for the TEC Companies to respond prior to the currently established date for the filing of direct testimony, then AT&T has no objection

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Pre-Hearing Order, August 24, 2001, page 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Id.*, page 6.

to allowing them a reasonable amount of time to prepare their answers. However, the procedural schedule also should be revised to allow sufficient time for AT&T to analyze the responses and to incorporate that analysis into its written testimony.

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing reasons, AT&T requests the Pre-Hearing Officer to reconsider the order of August 24, 2001 by entering an order requiring the TEC Companies to respond to AT&T's outstanding discovery requests and modifying the procedural schedule accordingly.

Respectfully submitted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001.

ack W. Robinson, Jr., #11656

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Marietta, Georgia 30068

(770) 984-0169

Attorneys for AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Jack W. Robinson, Jr., hereby certify that I have on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001 served via Hand-Delivery or first class mail, a copy of the foregoing Petition for Reconsideration by AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. on T.G. Pappas, Esq. and R. Dale Grimes, Esq., Bass, Berry & Sims, 2700 First American Center, 313 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37238-2700 and a copy to Timothy C. Phillips, Esq., Office of the Tennessee Attorney General, Consumer Advocate and Protection Division, 425 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, P. O. Box 20207, Nashville, TN 37202.

Jack W. Robinson, J.

## BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:

Joint Petition of Crockett Telephone, Inc., People's Telephone Company, West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc. and the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney General for the Approval and Implementation of Earnings Review Settlement

Docket No. 99-00995

AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL STATES, INC. FIRST SET OF DISCOVERY REQUESTS TO CROCKETT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., PEOPLE'S TELEPHONE COMPANY AND WEST TENNESSEE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

Pursuant to T.C.A. §4-5-311 and the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. ("AT&T") serves the following first set of discovery requests on the Crockett Telephone Company, Inc., People's Telephone Company and West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc. (the "TEC Companies") to be answered in the manner and within the time provided in the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, except as may be ordered by the prehearing officer or the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

- 1. In the proposed settlement agreement between the TEC Companies and the CAD, it is proposed to give a monthly credit in 2000 and 2001 of "\$5.00 per business access line" and of "\$4.75 per residence access line."
- a. What services are included within the terms "business access line" and "residence access line"?

- b. Identify the tariffs, including pages and effective dates, for each TEC Company which cover the services and rates for "business access line" and "residence access lines."
- c. What are the present rates for "business access lines" and "residence access lines"?
- d. Under the proposed settlement, are the current rates for "business access lines" and "residence access lines" assumed to remain unchanged through 2001?
- e. What were the comparable rates for "business access lines" and "residence access lines" for each TEC Company on January 1, 1984?
- f. Identify by effective date and TPSC or TRA Docket Number any Orders approving changes in the rates for "business access lines" and "residence access lines" since January 1, 1984.
- g. State the rates for "business access lines" and "residence access lines" resulting from each such change identified in (f) above.
- h. What were the total revenues received by each of the TEC Companies from "business access lines" and "residence access lines" services during 1997, 1998 and 1999?
- i. What were the average monthly revenues received by each of the TEC Companies from "business access lines" and "residence access lines" services during 1997, 1998 and 1999?

- j. What are the forecast total revenues to be received by each of the TEC Companies from "business access lines" and "residence access lines" services during 2000 and 2001?
- k. What are the forecast average monthly revenues to be received by each of the TEC Companies from "business access lines" and "residence access lines" services during 2000 and 2001?
- 2. (a) What do each of the TEC Companies contend were the costs of providing "business access lines" service in 1999?
- (b) What do each of the TEC Companies contend will be the cost, or an estimate of costs, of providing "business access lines" service in 2000 and 2001?
- (c) What do each of the TEC Companies contend were the costs, or an estimate of costs, of providing "residence access lines" service in 1999?
- (d) What do each of the TEC Companies contend will be the cost, or an estimate of costs, of providing "residence access lines" service in 2000 and 2001?
- (e) What method for computing costs do the TEC Companies contend should be followed in computing the costs with respect to the costs of providing "business access line" and "residence access line" services?
- 3. (a) If the revenues to be received by each of the TEC Companies in 2000 and 2001, including the proposed credits, for providing "business access lines" service and "residence access lines" service are below the costs of providing such

service, list all services which are identified by each of the TEC Companies as producing revenues above the cost of providing such service during 1999.

- (b) For each service listed in (a) above, state the amount by which the 1999 revenues exceeded the 1999 costs.
- (c) In forecasting revenues and costs for 2000 and 2001, are any changes in the list of services shown in response to (a) above anticipated? If so, identify such services.
- 4. (a) On what basis and under what agreements or procedures were access charges imposed by each of the TEC Companies from January 1, 1984 through the entry of the Megacom Order, dated March 17, 1988 by the TPSC in Docket Nos. U-87-7492, U-87-7512, U-87-7513, U-87-7514 and U-87-7515.
- (b) What were the rates charged by each of the TEC Companies for access services from January 1, 1984 through the entry of the Megacom Order?
- (c) On what basis and under what agreements or procedures were access charges imposed by each of the TEC Companies from the entry of the Megacom Order through 1999?
- (d) What were the rates charged by each of the TEC Companies for access services for each year from the entry of the Megacom Order through 1999?
- (e) On what basis and under what agreements or procedures does each of the TEC Companies forecast that access charges will be computed for the years 2000 and 2001?

- 5. (a) On what basis and under what agreements or procedures were the TEC Companies compensated by South Central Bell Telephone Company for the handling of intraLATA traffic for the year 1984?
- (b) Identify, by type of document, date and substance of change made, each change in the agreements or procedures for the compensation of the TEC Companies by South Central Bell Telephone Company or BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. for the handling of intraLATA traffic since 1984?
- (c) Identify any tariffs reflecting the services and rates charged to South Central Bell Telephone Company or BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. covering the compensation identified in (b) above.
- (d) State the total revenues received by each of the TEC Companies from BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999, and the total revenues forecast to be received from BellSouth Telecommunications for the years 2000 and 2001.
- (e) Identify by number the account or accounts under the Uniform System of Accounts which reflect the revenues stated in (d) above.
- (f) Do the TEC Companies apply the Megacom adjustment to the access charge rates it charges BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.?
- (g) State the basis of the TEC Companies' position which respect to whether the Megacom adjustment applies to the access charge rates it charges BellSouth Telecommunications. Inc.?

Superior.

- 6. (a) Do the TEC Companies contend that they are, and will be, entitled to support from any universal service mechanism established by the TRA pursuant to T.C.A. §65-5-207 for "business access line" or "residence access line" services?
- (b) Do the TEC Companies contend that under any universal service mechanism established by the TRA pursuant to T.C.A. §65-5-207 the rates for "business access line" and "residence access line" services should be supported at the level proposed in the settlement agreement between the CAD and the TEC Companies?
- (c) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative and the answer to (b) above is in the negative, on what basis do the TEC Companies contend that the support for "business access line" or "residence access line" services should be based?
- 7. In 1997 the TEC Companies joined in a petition filed by "Independent Companies and Cooperatives" in the arbitration proceeding between AT&T and BellSouth Telecommunications, TRA Docket No. 96-01152, alleging that in order to avoid the filing of agreements between BellSouth and the petitioners, BellSouth had cancelled and requested renegotiation of its existing agreements and requested that the TRA declare that such agreements did not have to be filed. Among the services allegedly included in such agreements were intraLATA toll, joint access and carrier

access billing. The TRA entered an Order declaring that such agreements did not have to be filed. With respect to any such agreements between BellSouth and the TEC Companies, or each of them:

- (a) Are such agreements in effect at present?
- (b) If not, when were they terminated?
- (c) If terminated, what replaced them as governing the relations between the TEC Companies and BellSouth?
- (d) If any such agreement is in effect at present, produce an executed copy thereof for inspection and copying.
- 8. (a) Do the TEC Companies admit that the pages in the attached Exhibit A to this First Set of Discovery Requests are accurately taken from the web site of their parent Telephone Electronics Corporation ("TEC")?
- (b) Which of the companies shown on the list of subsidiary companies of TEC on the last two pages of the attached Exhibit A operate in Tennessee?
- (c) Excluding the three (3) TEC Companies that are petitioners in this case, what services are offered by the TEC subsidiaries in Tennessee?

Val Sanford, #3316

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Attorneys for AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Val Sanford, hereby certify that I have on this day of March, 2000 served via Hand-Delivery, the original of the foregoing First Set of Discovery Requests to TEC Companies on T. G. Pappas and R. Dale Grimes, Esq. Bass, Berry & Sims, 2700 First American Center, 313 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37238-2700 and a copy to Vance Broemel, Esq., Consumer Advocate Division, 425 5th Avenue, North, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

Val Sanford

#### TELEPHONE ELECTRONICS CORPORATION

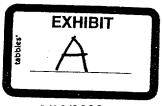
Currently, TEC consists of about thirty companies networked into a highly effective communications system. By working toward a common goal of providing quality service and applying creative technologies, TEC companies meet the needs of millions of people throughout America.

Local communication services are comprised of several telephone companies, or Local Exchange Carriers (LEC's). The telephone companies are hometown-based institutions that provide the most modern phone service to communities in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. These LEC's are an integral part of the infrastructure of their host cities, binding together with their communities. State-of-the-art communication services have been brought to both large cities and small towns where TEC companies operate, thus enhancing the quality of life and business. These LEC's offer enhanced services such as Custom Calling Features, Advanced Custom Calling Features, Centrex, Voice Mail, Pagers, and Signaling Systems 7 (SS7) capability. TEC companies not only serve; they also are a dynamic member of their locale.

Long Distance operations include Interexchange Carriers (IXC's) that provide long distance services, such as 800 Service, WATS Service, Calling Cards, and Private Lines to residential and commercial customers. A network comprised of digital switches, fiber optic cable routes, and microwave facilities completes TEC's national communications network. The scope of these companies reaches across America and provides a wide variety of services in a very competitive market. These companies, combined with the local telephone companies, provide TEC with established presence in many aspects of the telecommunications industry. The diversity of TEC's companies provides the corporation with all of the tools necessary for continued success in the industry.

Throughout the years, TEC has prospered and developed into a major player in the communications world. Growth by acquisition and the formation of new TEC companies have brought about expansion and progress.

At the core of the company's success is a keen awareness of customer and community needs. Being responsive to a market-driven



http://www.tec.com/current.html

industry has given rise to the TEC philosophy that quality service should be developed for and applied to the customers' needs. TEC is a forerunner in the dynamic telecommunications industry, providing excellent service and competitive, fair rates. The resulting effect is threefold: new services are readily available, the company is profitable, and TEC's image is enhanced by being attentive and responsive to its customers.

Decades of service have brought growth and prosperity to TEC and its employees. Today, determination and dedication demonstrated in family, bound together with common goals and respect for one another. TEC provides the

the company is managed with the same 1923. The TEC organization is unique in its structure and its approach to the industry. TEC companies operate like a closely knit top quality service of a large corporation with the personal touch and devotion of a hometown business.

Dedication to service and a sense of community have separated TEC from others that crowd their field; and Telephone Electronics Corporation will continue to provide the innovation and performance that keeps them at the top of the industry.

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**Our Company** 













#### TELEPHONE ELECTRONICS CORPORATION

#### **Long Distance & Other Communications Services**



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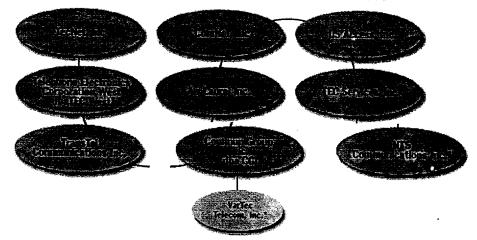
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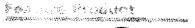




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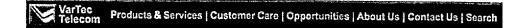
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Care

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1-800-583-8811

VarTec Telecom's Mailing Address:

#### VarTec Telecom, Inc. 3200 W. Pleasant Run Rd. Lancaster, TX 75146

In order to serve you better, we have compiled a list of the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) of Customer Care, along with simple explanations. Please refer to these FAQ's before calling Customer Care - we hope you might find what you're looking for without having to take your time to call us!



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#### **Dialing FAQ**

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#### Services FAQ

Questions and Answers about the individual VarTec long distance services. Click Here.

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#### **Company History**

VarTec Telecom, Inc. was chartered as a Texas corporation in February of 1989 and is headquartered in the Dallas suburb of Lancaster. VarTec is classified as an interexchange carrier, originating on its own feature groups, transporting to the nearest network switch and terminating on a digital



network. Unlike many other companies, very little of VarTec's growth can be attributed to acquisitions. The revenue VarTec has generated has been through sales. VarTec addresses its markets through distributors, direct mail, and a direct sales force.

VarTec began with a single switching platform and offered general long- distance service (1+, 800, travel, and dedicated access) to subscribers in Texas. Today, VarTec operates eight Northern Telecom - DMS-250 Supernodes (Atlanta, Chicago, Colorado Springs, Dallas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Pittsburgh, and Seattle) and is properly licensed and certified to provide long-distance service in all 48 contiguous states.

It would have been very difficult for VarTec to have grown as rapidly as it has without acquisitions if it had attempted to compete head-on in AT&T, MCI, and Sprint's basic market areas. VarTec is known for its innovations . . . it pioneered its own telecommunications path. VarTec was an early player in switchless resale and introduced one of the first programs that featured LEC billing. Despite industry pessimism, VarTec developed the first and largest successful equal access program on a national scale and introduced the penny call concept. In the fall of 1992, VarTec installed a prepaid calling platform. Today, Phone Pass and its private label sisters are among the best selling retail phone cards in America. VarTec also offers Calling Pass, a promotional card program. VarTec's newest family of products combines prepaid technology with interactive voice technology and results in a totally new telecommunications opportunity.

Although VarTec's primary business is still general long-distance services, VarTec has made quantum advances both in products and scope since 1989. VarTec Telecom, Inc. truly offers many different Voices of Technology.

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## TELEPHONE ELECTRONICS CORPORATION Local Communications Services



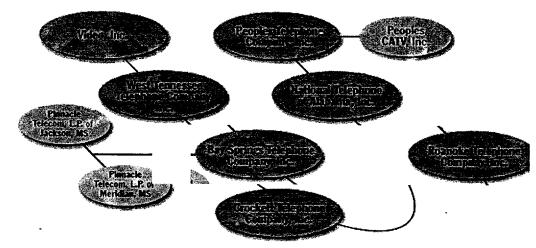


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#### TELEPHONE ELECTRONICS CORPORATION

#### Subsidiary Companies

#### Local Communication Services

- Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc.
  - Pinnacle Telecom, L.P. of Meridian, MS
  - Pinnacle Telecom, L.P. of Jackson, MS
- Crockett Telephone Company, Inc.
- National Telephone of Alabama, Inc.
  - Shoals Cellular, Inc.
- Peoples Telephone Company
  - Peoples CATV, Inc.
- Roanoke Telephone Company, Inc.
- Video, Inc.
- West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc.

#### Long Distance & Other Communication Services

- Air Laurel, Inc.
- CommuniGroup of Alabama, Inc.
- CommuniGroup of Jackson, Inc.
- CommuniGroup North Alabama, Inc.
- CommuniGroup, Inc. dba CGI
  - Compute-A-Call, Inc.
    - CommuniGroup of Arkansas, Inc.
- ComNet, Inc.
- LecNet, Inc.
- Magnolia Cellular Corp.
- NTS Communications, Inc.\*
- TEC Services, Inc.
- TecNet, Inc.
- Telephone Electronics Corporation West dba TEC West
- TransTel Communications, Inc.
  - Communication Recovery Services, Inc.
  - Extelcom, Inc. dba Express Tel
  - National Network Corp.
  - <u>Tel-America of Salt Lake City,</u> <u>Inc.</u>
- US Access, Inc.
- VarTec Telecom, Inc.\*
  - U.S. Republic Communications, Inc.
  - Web America Networks, Inc.\*
  - Network Construction Management, Inc.







Our Company

- PrimeTEC International, Inc.
- VarTec Telecom Europe, Ltd.
- Choctaw Communications, Inc.

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